

Biography – James B. "Ben" Petro, PhD, MSSI

Dr. Ben Petro is the Director, Human Systems within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, where he oversees, coordinates, integrates, and synchronizes a ~\$3.2B/yr research portfolio targeted to optimize warfighter effectiveness. The Human Systems portfolio includes the technology areas of biology (to include medical, warfighter performance, and non-medical research), human-machine teaming, training, biological sciences, environmental sciences, and DoD compliance with statutes, regulations, and policies for protection of human and animal research subjects. Ben previously served as the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense and held senior leadership positions with the White House National Security Council, Department of Homeland Security, and Defense Intelligence Agency focused on Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention.

A member of the Senior Executive Service, Ben has a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Vanderbilt University, a M.S. in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College, a B.S. in Biotechnology from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's *Leadership for a Democratic Society*, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's *Seminar XXI*, and Harvard Kennedy School's *Senior Executive Fellows* programs. He has published in peer-reviewed journals including *Science*, *Studies in Intelligence*, and *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism*. Ben is a recipient of the Secretary of Defense *Exceptional Civilian Service Medal*, the National Security Council *Outstanding Service Award*, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency *Meritorious Civilian Service Medal*, the Defense Intelligence Agency *Meritorious Civilian Service Medal*, the Central Intelligence Agency *Studies in Intelligence Award* and the Director of National Intelligence *Galileo Award*.